

Tufts Health Plan Scholarships 2006



The Group Insurance Commission is pleased to announce a scholarship program sponsored by Tufts Health Plan of Massachusetts. In Calendar Year 2006, two individual \$2,500 scholarships are available to GIC-eligible **undergraduate** students *currently enrolled* in any accredited two- or four-year, public or private college or university, who have completed, at a minimum, one semester of classes. One of the student's parents and/or a legal guardian must be a current active or retired Massachusetts State employee. Each scholarship is merit-based. Applications will be evaluated based on their cover letter, the student's college GPA, an essay, and a letter of recommendation, all of which must be received by the GIC by 5 P.M. on June 30, 2006.

Eligibility Criteria

- Undergraduate student currently enrolled full-time in any two- or four-year, public or private college or university who is GIC-eligible as the child or dependent of a Massachusetts State employee or retiree.
- Minimum college GPA of 3.0. The student must have completed at least one semester of college as of June 30, 2006.
- The applicant should demonstrate interest in a career in public service (preferably with a health care focus) or demonstrate an interest in entering the health care field.
- The scholarship recipient's parent or legal guardian must be a current Massachusetts State employee or retiree at the time of the award.

Exclusions to Eligibility Criteria

- Dependents of Group Insurance Commission employees and dependents of those Massachusetts State employees who are appointed members of the Commission are not eligible.
- Undergraduate students who will graduate prior to July 31, 2006 are not eligible.

Application Process Requirements

- Cover letter.
- Essay (see page four of this application).
- One letter of recommendation (academic preferred). Please submit in an envelope with your application packet.
- Copy of your most recent official college transcript.
- All materials must be completed and received by the Group Insurance Commission by 5PM on June 30, 2006.

Award Procedure

- Scholarship recipients will be notified by July 31, 2006.
- Checks will be made payable directly to the registrar's office of the student's college or university and mailed on or before August 14, 2006.

STUDENT APPLICATION

Student Name:	
Social Security Number:	
Permanent Address:	
Home Phone:	
Work Phone:	
Summer Address (if different from above):	
Name of College/ University: (include address)	
Current Major:	
Current GPA:	
Name of High School:	
Parent/ Guardian Name:	
Parent/Guardian's GIC ID# (or Social Security #) and agency:	

COMPLETED APPLICATIONS ARE DUE BY 5PM on June 30, 2006 at:

**Scholarship Committee
Group Insurance Commission
P.O. Box 8747
Boston, MA 02114**

* Transcript and letter of recommendation may be sent under separate cover, if necessary.

** Award recipients will be notified by July 31, 2006.

Issue:

Since the year 2000, the number of uninsured residents of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has increased by over 40% (current estimates of the state's uninsured population range from 500,000 to 550,000). A majority of the uninsured, roughly 70%, are adults in the work force. As a group, young adults are the most likely to be uninsured. Here in Massachusetts, a young adult is more than twice as likely to be uninsured as an older adult.

Recognizing that the health insurance coverage gap is a serious and growing problem, the Massachusetts Legislature and the Governor have worked together to come up with a health care reform bill. One component of the legislation would make 19-26 year olds eligible for lower-cost, specially designed products. This proposal is aimed at ensuring that young adults have access to quality health care by making health insurance coverage both available and affordable.

Please write an essay* on the impact the recent Massachusetts health care legislation will have on young adults (aged 19 –26). What would you suggest the Legislature do differently (if anything) to increase health insurance coverage in this age group? If you could design your own health insurance product to specifically address the uninsured young adults of Massachusetts what would that design look like? Please be sure to address how your plan for insuring young adults would be funded.

**(Responses must be written by the student. Please limit answer to 3 pages, typewritten, 12 point font, and 1.5 line spacing).*